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Message Text

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64
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 TRSE-00

EB-07 COME-00 /064 W
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R 291100Z OCT 76
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5348
INFO CINCPAC
DIA

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CINCPAC ALSO POLAD

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, TH
SUBJ: POLICY STATEMENT OF THANIN GOVERNMENT

REF: BANGKOK 11500

SUMMARY: PRIME MINISTER THANIN KRAIWICHIAN PRESENTED HIS GOVERNMENT'S POLICY STATEMENT ON OCT 29 TO THE PRIME MINISTER'S ADVISORY COUNCIL (PMAC), WHICH WAS ACTING IN ITS TEMPORARY LEGISLATIVE CAPACITY. STATEMENT WAS UNREMARKABLE AND PREDICTABLE. IT STRESSED MAJOR GOALS OF BUILDING SELF-RELIANT ARMED FORCES, ACHIEVING FINANCIAL STABILITY, AND IMPLEMENTING A FOREIGN POLICY OF NATIONAL INTEREST AND SURVIVAL WHICH PROMOTES MUTUAL FRIENDSHIP WITH ALL COUNTRIES. END SUMMARY.

1. ON OCT 29 PRIME MINISTER THANIN KRAIWICHIAN PRESENTED HIS GOVERNMENT'S POLICY TO THE PRIME MINISTER'S ADVISORY COUNCIL (PMAC), WHICH HAS LEGISLATIVE RESPONSIBILITIES UNTIL THE NATIONAL ADMINISTRATIVE REFORM
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ASSEMBLY (NARA) IS FORMED. ALTHOUGH THIS ACTION IS

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NOT REQUIRED BY THE CONSTITUTION (PROMULGATED OCT 22)
THE PRIME MINISTER IS FOLLOWING TRADITION INPRESENTING
THE GOVERNMENT POLICY STATEMENT TO THE LEGISLATIVE
BRANCH OF GOVERNMENT.

2. IN THE POLICY STATEMENT THE PRIME MINISTER STRESSED
THREE MAJOR GOALS FOR THE NEW GOVERNMENT. (1) BUILD
SELF-RELIANT ARMED FORCES CAPABLE OF DEFENDING THE
COUNTRY; (2) ACHIEVE FINANCIAL STABILITY, WHICH IS
ESSENTIAL TO ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT;
(3) FOLLOW A FOREIGN POLICY BASED ON NATIONAL INTEREST,
SURVIVAL AND SECURITY, PROMOTING MUTUAL FRIENDSHIP
WITH ALL COUNTRIES REGARDLESS OF DIFFERENCES IN
GOVERNMENTAL, ECONOMIC OR SOCIAL SYSTEMS. THE NEW
GOVERNMENT ALSO PLEDGED TO FIGHT COMMUNISM, CORRUPTION,
NAROCITICS, POVERTY AND UNDEREMPLOYMENT.

3. IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS THANIN SPECIFICALLY STATED THAT
THERE MUST BE NO ATTEMPTS BY NATIONS TO COMMIT AGRESSION
AGAINST EACH OTHER OR TO THREATEN OR SUBVERT EACH
OTHER. HE ALSO PROMISED TO PROMOTE REGIONAL COOPERA-
TION, ESPECIALLY WITH THAILAND'S ASEAN PARTNERS, AND TO SUP-
PORT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE SOUTHEAST ASIA ZONE OF
PEACE, FREEDOM AND NEUTRALITY.

4. IN THE FIELD OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS HE SAID THAT THE
NEW GOVERNMENT PROMISED TO PROMOTE COMMERCE, INVESTMENT
AND TOURISM; TO ENCOURAGE PRIVATE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
TO ASSIST FARMERS IN IMPROVING THEIR LIVING CONDITIONS;
AND TO ENSURE SUFFICIENT SUPPLIES OF ESSENTIAL GOODS
OF APPROPRIATE QUALITY AT REASONABLE PRICES.

5. IN THE SOCIAL FIELD THE GOVERNMENT PLEDGED TO
PURSUE A FOUR-YEAR LAND REFORM PROGRAM; TO DEVELOP CO-
OPERATIVES, WITH SPECIAL ATTENTION TO SMALL FARMERS.
IT SPECIFICALLY PROMISED TO REFORM THE SYSTEM OF PROSECU-
TION BY PROVIDING A PROSECUTOR AT THE APPEALS AND
SUPREME COURT LEVELS AND BY GIVING PROSECUTORS THE
AUTHORITY TO SUPERVISE INVESTIGATIONS. (THIS LATTER
AUTHORITY IS NOW IN THE HANDS OF THE POLICE. THE
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TRANSFER OF AUTHORITYFROM THE POLICE.)

6. COMMENT: THE POLICY STATEMENT OF THE NEW GOVERN-
MENT IS UNREMARKABLE, ECHOING WHAT THE PRIME MINISTER
HAD PREVIOUSLY STATED. IT IS FAIRLY PREDICTABLE AND
RARELY SPECIFIC, EXCEPT WHERE IT DEALS WITH THE REFORM
OF THE PROSECUTION DEPART AND THE IMPROVEMENT
WITHIN SIX MONTHS OF SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE BANGKOK

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METROPOLITAN BUS COMPANY. MUCH OF ITS IS SIMILAR TO THE SENI GOVERNMENT'S POLICY STATEMENT OF APR 30, (SEE REFTEL). TWO IMPORTANT DIFFERENCES INVOLVE THE ARMED FORCES AND RELATIONS WITH THE INDOCHINA STATES. WHEN DISCUSSING THE ARMED FORCES THE NEW GOVERNMENT HAS EMPHASIZED THE NEED TO BUILD A SELF-RELIANT FORCE AND HAS DELETED THE SENI GOVERNMENT'S PROVISO THAT THE STRENGTHENING OF THE ARMED FORCES MUST BE "IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE NATIONAL ECONOMIC STRENGTH". THE NEW GOVERNMENT'S STATEMENT ALSO LACKS A SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO "NORMALIZING RELATIONS WITH NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES, ESPECIALLY COUNTRIES OF THE INDOCHINA PENINSULA" WHICH WAS INCLUDED IN THE SENI GOVERNMENT'S POLICY STATEMENT. THE THANIN GOVERNMENT CLEARLY WANTS TO HAVE GOOD RELATIONS WITH THE INDOCHINESE COUNTRIES, IF POSSIBLE, BUT HAS MADE CLEAR ITS VIEW THAT THE PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT HAD SHOWN AN UNDIGNIFIED WILLINGNESS TO ACCEPT SLIGHTS FROM THAILAND'S COMMUNIST NEIGHBORS IN THE PURSUIT OF GOOD RELATIONS. THE THANIN GOVERNMENT CLEARLY INTENDS TO MODERATE ITS ZEAL IN THIS RESPECT.
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